MAY 6 1957

Dear Sir

Department of the United States
Portland April 27th 1833

The design of employing you on behalf of the United States as agent to visit Paris & perhaps London with the purpose of examining certain processes relative to the fisheries, which was submitted to you in conversation during my recent visit to Washington having met your approbation has occupied much of my attention since that time. It may be proper briefly to advert to the several points to the attention of which you will be invited as rendering the present expedient.

Such a purpose of course will have entertained for some years without having presented a favorable opportunity for it, as the objects in view required attainments and an aptitude in the individual employed, which are not often to be found disengaged from pursuits offering liberal emoluments. This unfulfilled wish was happily removed by the occasion of finding the gentleman then named to you Mr. Franklin Peale of this city, from other engagements and not indisposed to devote his attention to the objects of this mission. I give my views fully on the subject in my letter of instructions to Mr. Peale which I take from New York for Havre by the Packet of the 8th May with instructions as to the various objects confided to him. These objects and the general considerations rendering them worthy of regard as mentioned at the interview referred to permit me briefly to repeat

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One of the objects mentioned as of this minute was the proofs employed with great reputed success in France for separating gold and silver from each other. The principle on which this is performed is not new nor is it by any means unknown here. But it can not be uninteresting to learn what manipulations have been found most economical and certain to the results. When the Bullion Market is for many days supplies of the metals requiring separation, this affords an ample field for testing all modes and selecting the best. The test on a very great scale is now in use in France having been greatly improved within the last few years as appears from two highly valuable memoirs on this subject to 1829 of the dates 1827 & 1828 transmitted me by an intelligent friend in Paris, being the report of a commission charged by the French Govt to investigate the alleged frauds in the operations of the Paris establishment with the view of remedying the inconveniences of - Nearly the same process has been introduced into England by a Swedish Gentleman from whom it received the name of The introduction of the mark into the British Mint with such modifications as the circumstances of the case may require would be a valuable accession to the means of the Mint from a source not a little embarrassing to its ordinary operations, which does not appear to be appropriate to its functions, and in foreign Mints is not usually associated with them.

Another subject mentioned as worthy of special attention, is the process of assaying silver in the humid way instead of relying on the dry assay. The ordinary mode of assaying, has been found to be liable to various irregularities rendering assays of the same Bar in different mints dissimilar in their results. This subject has been the occasion of no small concern. The [illegible] Mint [illegible] - I have great reason to rely

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that the hiran apsay as proposed him with the guards collected for
the coinstion is not inferior in accuracy to that of any other Mint employing the
any apsay. This is still to some extent important in its results to the [illegible] the variable
state of the atmosphere and from the difficulty of measuring
contracting with heat and
the temperature of a furnace by multiplying
The [illegible] of the heavy [illegible] attached the alloy-
tion of the Pounds for 1829 and a commission containing the fine names in
the ranks of chemical science were charged with its investigation. The Reports of this
commission dated in 1829 and 1830 were received here
from the Department
of the Treasury. This
by the officers of the Mints and
and report of these Com.
probably the experiments
Chairman of the Com. on behalf of the House of Reps.
my reply to which forms a part of Com. published in the report of the Com-
mittee of Nov 22d 1831

Some introductory experiments have been made here in regard to the
hummel machine. But the little leisure which the Assayer of the Mint can
devote to this inquiry, occupied as he is by daily official engagements is altogether in-
sufficient for the purpose. In France the inquiry where it has been
committed chiefly to those who are not engaged in other highly responsible
duties. Even for them have needed in making the hummel experiments
Assay in which for daily use I have not entire confidence.
A supplemental report on the subject was expected.
Chemical Commission
I do not know
that such a report has been made.

On the whole this process demands the best efforts to render it generally
useful by the
with the pound assay
proof, and
employed here to verify the original [illegible] the officers employed

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in any reply on this point to the enquiries of Mr White the law: on which
whom reference to is still entertained - that a parish poors by the hundred
(described by Mr Wells)
way would be better - In this opinion the Speaker of the House who is
intimately conversant respecting this department concurs -

With this subject mentioned is of less instant concern to the existence
than the not having been enabled to make an examination of the machinery
which under a Bill recently passed for the purpose of encouraging
the invention of
in carrying by them passed - The application of this power in the
Mr Wells
Secretary of the Treasury Department
part of the Bill for the purpose would the clerk is in readiness to receive the inscription of the die, is not less present in the Mind of the United States than
in the most celebrated of the foreign Mints in some particulars the confirmations might
be very advantageously copied into the most of them establishments.
The inscription of the die has been thus far given by hand presses. In
the United States Mint have and both in the Coinage of all the
Gold & Silver the application of them power by the
combination of Machinery contrived by the celebrated Mr. Boulton
has been intended for this purpose - The amount of coinage required
to be effected yearly by the present mode is not
strongly demanded - The great importance of this Machinery
has occasioned it to be the subject of a
and especially after the present Edifice was com-
menced under the Act for extending the Mint establishment, the
introduction of such Machinery being then under consideration. If this
measure had been carried on upon a the requisite Mechanical
skill would have been acquired to work England to see the
Machinery in operation. For such a purpose Mr Peale is singularly qua-
lified. He is distinguished for Mechanical ingenuity and quickness of
perception in regard to Machinery and the Agent of Mechanical Combinations he
in preparation the he may acquire on this subject
what will be available should it be considered desirable
to employ that Character of Machinery hereafter - The expediency
of its introduction in preference to other Modes of applying the Steam
power for the Coinage of Gold & Silver can be decided after

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Mr. Peale reported a bill in regard to the [illegible] of the Mint, which was read twice and committed to a Committee of the whole House on the state of the Union. The bill is entitled "An act in addition to the act establishing a Mint and regulating the coins of the United States" and provides that the Director of the Mint shall be annually appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall receive a salary of $2500 per annum. The Treasurer of the Mint shall be appointed in like manner, and shall receive a salary of $1500 per annum. The Chief Coiner shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1500 per annum. The Assayer shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1500 per annum. The Engraver shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1500 per annum. The Clerk shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Messenger shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Watchmen shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Coiners shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Coiners shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Assayers shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Engravers shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Clerks shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Messengers shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Watchmen shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Coiners shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Assayers shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Engravers shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Clerks shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Messengers shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum. The Assistant Watchmen shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and shall receive a salary of $1000 per annum.

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We have been making these operations of this department familiar to Genl Scott & attended some time preparatory to his departure. This acquaintance with the history & chemistry under this application may - We is in the character of Assistant & pays that he will expedite what is above, no compensation being attached to his appointment under he is ready to embark. —

Will you have the goodness to forward a note to a few lines introducing Mr Rodgers requesting Mr Rodgers to the favor of any public functionary of the gov't in Paris or London to whom it may be addressed in public business & whom it may be necessary for him to consult in the course of the object of his visit - If any private introduction should seem to be necessary for this purpose he will please to favor him therefor - I would observe I have sent of letters to other than public functionaries he has a large supply - In the circle of acquaintance he has many friends by whom his character is highly appreciated and who will favorably introduce him to the first circles in Paris and London. —

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obed't Serv't

Saml Moore

Hon Louis McLane
Secretary of the Treasury

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Hon. Louis McLane

Sec'y of the Treasury

Dec. 27. 1833

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